

## **EXHIBIT 13**

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: ) Chapter 11  
)  
W. R. GRACE & CO., et al., ) Case No. 01-01139 (JJF)  
)  
Debtors. ) Jointly Administered  
)  
) Objections Due By 7/11/01 @ 4:00 p.m.  
) Hearing Date: 7/19/01 @ Noon

**NATIONAL MEDICAL CARE'S RESPONSE TO THE JOINT MOTION BY THE  
OFFICIAL COMMITTEES OF ASBESTOS PROPERTY DAMAGE  
AND ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMANTS FOR AUTHORITY  
TO PROSECUTE FRAUDULENT TRANSFER CLAIMS (DOCKET NO. 477)**

National Medical Care, Inc. ("NMC"), submits this response to the motion filed jointly by the Official Committee of Asbestos Property Damage Claimants and the Official Committee of Asbestos Personal Injury Claimants (collectively, the "Asbestos Committees") seeking authority to prosecute certain fraudulent transfer claims on behalf of the Debtors.

**INTRODUCTION**

In their joint motion, the Asbestos Committees seek authorization to challenge as fraudulent conveyances certain transfers made in connection with two complex corporate transactions: a 1996 transaction involving the combination of NMC with the worldwide dialysis business of Fresenius AG (the "Fresenius transaction"), and a 1998 transaction involving the combination of the Debtors' packaging business with Sealed Air Corporation (the "Sealed Air transaction"). Although Fresenius takes no position on whether this Court should empower the Asbestos Committees to evaluate or pursue the alleged fraudulent transfer claims, we do believe that the joint motion mischaracterizes the factual background of the Fresenius transaction, obscures the legal and factual impediments to the

successful assertion of a fraudulent conveyance claim based on the Fresenius transaction, and avoids altogether discussing the enormous burden that this litigation will impose on the Debtors and their Estates. Accordingly, NMC urges the Court to acknowledge the role the Debtors will need to play in the resolution of the novel theories that the Asbestos Committees seek to present, and to insist that such litigation go forward, if at all, in this Court, so that the Court can closely monitor the litigation and ensure that all the interests of the Estates are properly protected.

### **ARGUMENT**

#### **I. THE ASBESTOS COMMITTEES HAVE MISCHARACTERIZED THE 1996 TRANSACTION BETWEEN GRACE AND FRESENIUS**

##### **A. Overview**

While NMC intends to defend itself vigorously in any adversary proceeding in this Court alleging fraudulent transfer claims, it would, of course, be premature for NMC to present its defense on the merits before a complaint has even been filed. Nonetheless, the mischaracterizations contained in the joint motion of the Asbestos Committees require a short response that accurately sets forth the circumstances of the Fresenius transaction.

In particular, this Court should view with great skepticism the suggestion of the Asbestos Committees that the 1996 Fresenius transaction was designed to shield NMC from asbestos liability. (Joint Motion at 1 and 5.) To the contrary, at the time of the 1996 transaction NMC and certain of its affiliated subsidiaries were the targets of criminal and civil investigations being conducted by various agencies of the federal government, which investigations related to allegations regarding certain billing and reimbursement practices. Among the potential penalties NMC and its subsidiaries faced as a result of the

investigation were substantial fines, civil penalties, forfeitures, and exclusion from participation in all federal health care programs.

In the four years that followed the Fresenius transaction, Grace remained a profitable, solvent, and well-capitalized company. During that same time, NMC bore the burdens, disruptions, and expense of the various federal and state criminal and civil investigations. To date, these investigations have cost NMC and its affiliates well in excess of \$500 million in penalties and expenses, and related private civil litigation still continues. No doubt that is why during the four years following the Fresenius transaction not a single creditor sought to attack the transaction as "fraudulent" or to impose liability on NMC or its affiliates for the conduct of Grace. To put it quite bluntly, for those four years it appeared to most that Grace may well have gotten the better of the deal between these large and sophisticated companies.

It is only after significant changes in circumstance -- now that Fresenius has resolved substantial portions of its reimbursement litigation and Grace has faced an unforeseeable explosion in meritless asbestos claims -- that the Asbestos Committees seek to revise history and claim that the 1996 transaction was fraudulent "in purpose and effect." (Joint Motion at 1.) To mount this attack, the Asbestos Committees seek not only to ignore the realities that were known and reasonably foreseeable as of 1996, but they try to avoid any mention of the significant financial strength demonstrated by Grace in the years immediately following the Fresenius transaction.

**B. Grace Obtained the Highest and Best Value for NMC**

As of the end of 1995, W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. (Grace-Conn.) owned all the outstanding common stock of NMC, which was a large provider of dialysis services and

products throughout the United States. Grace-Conn., in turn, was wholly owned by W.R. Grace & Co., a New York corporation (Grace-N.Y.).

Beginning in the fall of 1995, Grace-N.Y. and its affiliated companies (collectively, "Grace") engaged in arms-length negotiations with several entities relating to the possible sale or merger of NMC. Ultimately, Grace decided that the best value could be obtained by negotiating a reorganization that would result in the tax free combination of NMC with the worldwide dialysis businesses of Fresenius AG. (Fresenius AG is a German corporation with its principal place of business in Bad Homburg, Germany.)

The 1996 transaction was structured in such a way as to provide maximum tax benefits to Grace. As a result of this structure, consideration was paid both directly to Grace-Conn. and to Grace shareholders. Ultimately, however, the Fresenius entities paid over \$4 billion in cash and stock for NMC. Of that, Grace-Conn. received a tax free cash distribution of approximately \$2.1 billion. Moreover, and perhaps equally important, Grace-Conn. received from the Fresenius entities an indemnity agreement, which assured that Grace would not bear any of the potential liability arising out of the ongoing investigations of NMC.

In addition to receiving over \$2 billion in tax free cash at the time of the transaction, Grace-Conn. remained a solvent, well capitalized entity long after the Fresenius transaction. For over four years after the transaction, Grace continued to pay its debts as they came due, obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in unsecured lines of credit from some of the world's most sophisticated financial institutions, paid millions of dollars in dividends, paid hundreds of millions of dollars in asbestos settlements, and maintained a significant market capitalization (over \$1.4 billion eighteen months after the

transaction, and approximately \$1.2 billion a full three years after the transaction). To say that the Asbestos Committees will be pursuing novel theories to argue that such a company was rendered insolvent or undercapitalized as of 1996 is an understatement.

Although the structure of the Fresenius transaction may have been complicated, this transaction did not constitute a fraudulent transfer under applicable law. That said, this Court should be mindful of the degree to which any fraudulent conveyance claim relating to the Fresenius transaction necessarily will require significant involvement and attention by the Debtors.

## **II. LITIGATION OF THE FRAUDULENT TRANSFER CLAIMS WILL REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT INVOLVEMENT OF GRACE**

The joint motion of the Asbestos Committees makes clear that whatever entities the committees might ultimately elect to sue, it is the conduct of Grace that they really wish to challenge. The joint motion suggests that the Asbestos Committees will claim that Grace had a fraudulent purpose in entering into these transactions, and that the effect of one or both of the transactions was to render Grace insolvent or undercapitalized. Accordingly, the fraudulent conveyance litigation necessarily will focus on the intentions and conduct of Grace management, the financial condition of Grace, and the reasonably foreseeable asbestos liabilities of Grace at the time of the transactions. All of this information is unavailable to either NMC or Sealed Air, and thus it is to Grace personnel and documents that all of the parties will turn for the primary factual information in this case.

Thus, the issue of who should prosecute the fraudulent transfer claims is not the only matter that must be resolved before litigation can be commenced. There remains the outstanding issue of where the fraudulent transfer claims should be litigated. NMC joined in Grace's motions in both the Abner and Woodward cases seeking to transfer the

litigation to Delaware. On June 13, 2001, Grace's motion to transfer in Woodward was granted. However, no action has been taken to date on the pending transfer motion in Abner.

Litigation of the fraudulent transfer claims in a forum other than the forum in which the underlying reorganization is going forward will unnecessarily complicate and delay Grace's reorganization. Because the fraudulent transfer claims are based on Grace's alleged intent and financial condition at the time of the transactions, much of the burden of defending the fraudulent transfer claims will require the involvement of Grace and will impose a significant burden on the company. As Grace has stated in its Amended Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, many of the witnesses who would provide key testimony in any fraudulent transfer litigation are the same individuals who will be integral to Grace's successful reorganization. (Am. Compl. ¶ 57.) Litigating the fraudulent transfer claims in the same Court as the bankruptcy proceeding will ensure that the litigation of those claims will be resolved expeditiously and without unnecessarily delaying Grace's reorganization.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, this Court has a direct interest in preventing any unnecessary waste or expense in the conduct of any fraudulent conveyance litigation. Because NMC and Sealed Air both have indemnification rights against Grace, which the Debtors have acknowledged in Court and in their filings, the unnecessary continuation or expansion of any fraudulent conveyance litigation could result in additional administrative expenses for the Estates.

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<sup>1</sup> Moreover, once the Court makes the initial determination as to who should prosecute the fraudulent transfer claims, some modification to the automatic stay and/or the preliminary injunction order may be required in order to allow the parties effectively and fairly to litigate the relevant issues.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Fresenius requests that if the Court grants the Asbestos Committees (or any other individual or entities) the authority to evaluate or pursue fraudulent transfer litigation against Fresenius, that the Court require such litigation to be brought in this Court, where such litigation can be resolved fairly, efficiently, and with due regard to the interests of all constituencies to this bankruptcy proceeding.

Wilmington, Delaware  
Dated: July 11, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL

By: William H. Sudell, Jr.

William H. Sudell, Jr. (I.D. No. 463)  
Eric D. Schwartz (I.D. No. 3134)  
1201 North Market Street  
P.O. Box 1347  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899  
(302) 655-9200

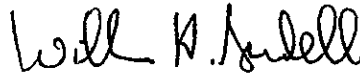
and

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY  
David S. Rosenbloom  
Jeffrey E. Stone  
Lewis S. Rosenbloom  
227 West Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 372-2000



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2001, a copy of National Medical Care's Response To The Joint Motion By The Official Committees of Asbestos Property Damage And Asbestos Personal injury Claimants For Authority To Prosecute Fraudulent Transfer Claims (Docket No. 477) was served on the parties listed on the attached service list.



\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Sudell, Jr.

## SERVICE LIST

### BY HAND DELIVERY

Mark S. Chehi, Esq.  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
One Rodney Square  
P.O. Box 636  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0636

Mark D. Collins Esquire  
Richards, Layton & Finger  
One Rodney Square  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Curtis J. Crowther, Esq.  
White and Williams LLP  
824 N. Market Street  
Suite 902  
P.O. Box 709  
Wilmington, DE 19899-0709

John D. Demmy, Esquire  
Stevens & Lee  
300 Delaware Avenue  
8th Floor, Suite 800  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Joseph Grey, Esq.  
Stevens & Lee  
300 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 800  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Bruce E. Jameson, Esquire  
Prickett, Jones & Elliott  
1310 King Street  
P.O. Box 1328  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Laura Davis Jones, Esquire  
Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young & Jones  
919 N. Market Street  
16th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Michael B. Joseph, Esquire  
Ferry & Joseph, P.A.  
824 Market Street  
Suite 904  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Michael R. Lastowski, Esquire  
Duane, Morris & Heckscher, LLP  
1100 N. Market Street  
Suite 1200  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Mary M. MaloneyHuss, Esq.  
Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP  
920 King Street  
Suite 300  
One Rodney Square  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Selinda A. Melnik, Esq.  
Smith, Katzenstein & Furlow LLP  
800 Delaware Avenue  
P.O. Box 410  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Frederick B. Rosner, Esquire  
Walsh, Monzack and Monaco, P.A.  
1201 N. Orange Street  
Suite 400  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Eric Lopez Schnabel, Esq.  
Klett Rooney Lieber & Schorling, P.C.  
The Brandywine Bldg.  
1000 West Street  
Suite 1410  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Laurie Selber Silverstein, Esq.  
Potter Anderson & Corroon  
1313 N. Market Street, 6th Floor  
P.O. Box 951  
Wilmington, DE 19899

William D. Sullivan, Esquire  
Elzufon Austin Reardon Tarlov & Mondell,  
P.A.  
300 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 1700  
P.O. Box 1630  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Jeffrey C. Wisler, Esquire  
Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP  
1220 Market Street  
10th Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Steven M. Yoder, Esquire  
The Bayard Firm  
222 Delaware Avenue  
Suite 900  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Matthew G. Zaleski, III, Esquire  
Campbell & Levine, LLC  
Chase Manhattan Centre  
15th Floor  
1201 Market St., Suite 1500  
Wilmington, DE 19801

BY U.S. MAIL

Derrick Tay, Esquire  
Meighen Demers  
St. 1100, Box 11 Merrill Lynch  
Canada Twr. Sun Life Center  
200 Kint Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3T4  
CANADA

Bankruptcy Administration  
IOS Capital, Inc.  
1738 Bass Road  
P.O. Box 13708  
Macon, GA 31208-3708

Daniel Chipko  
The Depository Trust Company  
P.O. Box 20  
Bowling Green Station  
New York, NY 10274

Lisa Clegg-Konen  
Risk Co.  
P.O. Box 7061  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Nancy Worth Davis, Esquire  
Ness, Motley, Loadhold, Richardson &  
Poole  
28 Bridgeside Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1792  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29465

Mary Harris  
Radian International  
P.O. Box 844130  
Dallas, TX 75284-4130

John Hill  
PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer, L.P.  
P.O. Box 71029  
Chicago, IL 60694-1029

Charlotte Klenke, Esquire  
Schneider National, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2545  
3101 S. packerland  
Green Bay, WI 54360

William McBain  
DCP-Lohja, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2501  
Carol Stream, IL 60132-2501

Diane Murdock  
BASF  
P.O. Box 75908  
Charlotte, NC 28275

Joseph F. Rice  
Ness, Motley, Loadholt, Richardson &  
Poole  
28 Bridgeside Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1792  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465

Cindy Schultz  
Ingersoll-Rand Fluid Products  
One Aro Center  
P.O. Box 151  
Bryan, OH 43506

Mia Skinner  
Union Carbine Corp.  
P.O. Box 91136  
Chicago, IL 60693-0001

Eric Solverson  
Ingersoll-Rand Fluid Products  
P.O. Box 751229  
Charlotte, NC 28275-1229

Milton Sunbeck, Jr.  
Southern Ionics, Inc.  
P.O. Box 830800  
Drawer 830  
Birmingham, AL 35283-0800

Secretary of Treasurer  
P.O. Box 7040  
Dover, DE 19903

Secretary of State  
Division of Corporations  
Franchise Tax  
P.O. Box 7040  
Dover, DE 19903

Credit Department  
Huntsman Corporation  
P.O. Box 22707  
Houston, TX 77227-7707

J. Douglas Bacon, Esquire  
Latham & Watkins  
Sears Tower  
Suite 5800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Scott L. Baena, Esquire  
Bilzin Sumberg Dunn Baena Price  
& Alexrod LLP  
200 South Biscayne Blvd.  
Suite 2500  
Miami, FL 33131

D.J. Baker, Esquire  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Four Times Square  
New York, NY 10036

Craig Barbarosh, Esq.  
Pissbury Winthrop LLP  
650 Town Center Drive  
7th Floor  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-7122

Steven T. Baron, Esquire  
Member  
Silber Pearlman, LLP  
2711 North Haskett Avenue  
5th Floor  
Dallas, TX 75204

Rebecca L. Besson, Chairman  
Delta Chemical Corporation  
2601 Cannery Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21226-1595

Charles E. Boulbol, Esquire  
26 Broadway  
17th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Alan R. Brayton, Esquire  
Brayton & Purcell  
222 Rush Landing Road  
Novato, CA 94945

Russell W. Budd  
Baron & Budd, P.C.  
3102 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Suite 1100  
Dallas, TX 75219

Ann-Margaret Bushnell  
Cass Logistics Temporary  
900 Chelmsford Street  
Lowell, MA 08510

Elizabeth J. Cabraser, Esq.  
Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein,  
LLP  
Embarcadero Center West  
30th Floor  
275 Battery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Stephen H. Case, Esquire  
Davis Polk & Wardwell  
450 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Bernice Conn, Esquire  
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP  
2049 Century Park East  
Suite 3700  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Mary A. Coventry  
Sealed Air Corporation  
Park 80 East  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

John P. Dillman, Esquire  
Linebarger Heard Goggan Blair  
Graham Pena & Sampson, LLP  
P.O. Box 3064  
Houston, TX 77253-3064

District Director  
IRS  
409 Silverside Road  
Wilmington, DE 19809

Securities & Exchange Commission  
Atlanta Regional Office Branch/  
Reorganization  
3475 Lenox Road, N.E.  
Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30326-1232

Robert M. Fishman, Esquire  
Shaw Gussis Domanskis Fishman & Glantz  
1144 West Fulton Street  
Suite 200  
Chicago, IL 60607

James D. Freeman, Esquire  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Environmental Enforcement  
999 18th Street  
Suite 945-North Tower  
Denver, CO 80202

Charles E. Gibson, III  
Attorney at Law  
620 North Street  
Suite 100  
Jackson, MI 39202

Leonard P. Goldberger, Esq.  
White and Williams LLP  
1800 One Liberty Place  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7395

Peter S. Goodman, Esq.  
Andrews & Kurth, LLP  
805 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

T. Kellan Grant  
Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon  
225 West Wacker Drive  
Suite 3000  
Chicago, IL 60606-1229

Ira S. Greene, Esquire  
Squadron, Ellenoff, Plesent & Sheinfeld,  
LLP  
551 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10176

Paul Haskell, Esq.  
Richards Spears Kibbe & Orbe  
One Chase Manhattan Plaza  
New York, NY 10005

Jay M. Hayden  
Heller, Draper, Hayden, Patrick & Horn,  
LLC  
650 Poydras Street  
Suite 2500  
New Orleans, LA 70130-6103

Andrea L. Hazzard, Esq.  
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, NY 10004-1482

Jon L. Heberling, Esquire  
McGarvey, Heberling, Sullivan & McGarvey  
PC  
745 South Main Street  
Kalispel, MT 59901

David S. Heller, Esquire  
Latham & Watkins  
Sears Tower  
Suite 5800  
Chicago, IL 60606

Patrick L. Hughes, Esquire  
Haynes & Boone LLP  
1000 Louisiana Street  
Suite 4300  
Houston, TX 77002-5012

Elihu Inselbuch, Esquire  
Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered  
399 Park Avenue  
27th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Steven J. Johnson, Esquire  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
1530 Page Mill Road  
Palto Alto, CA 94304-1125

William H. Johnson, Esquire  
Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Three Commercial Place  
Norfolk, VA 23510-9242

Shelby A. Jordan, Esquire  
Jordan, Hyden, Womble & Culbreth, P.C.  
500 N. Shoreline Boulevard  
Suite 900  
Corpus Christi, TX 78471

William S. Katchen, Esquire  
Duane, Morris & Heckscher, LLP  
1 Riverfront Plaza  
2nd Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Alan H. Katz, Esq.  
Entergy Services, Inc.  
693 Loyola Avenue  
Suite 2600  
New Orleans, LA 70113

Michael T. Kay, Esquire  
The Dow Chemical Company  
2030 Dow Center  
Midland, MI 48674

Anne Marie P. Kelley, Esq.  
Dilworth Paxson LLP  
Liberty View - Suite 700  
457 Haddonfield Road  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Alan Kolod, Esquire  
Moses & Singer LLP  
1301 Avenue of the Americas  
40th Floor  
New York, NY 10019-6076

Lewis T. Kruger, Esquire  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP  
180 Maiden Lane  
New York, NY 10038-4982

Courtney M. Labson, Esquire  
The Mills Corporation  
Legal Department  
1300 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 400  
Arlington, VA 22209

Lewis T. LeClair, Esquire  
McKool Smith  
300 Crescent Court  
Suite 1500  
Dallas, TX 75201

Harry Lee, Esquire  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Ron Luce  
Valeron Strength Films  
75 Remittance Drive  
Suite 3068  
Chicago, IL 60675

Paul M. Matheny, Esquire  
Peter G. Angelos, P.C.  
5905 Harford Road  
Baltimore, MD 21214

Todd Meyers, Esquire  
Kilpatrick Stockton  
1100 Peachtree Street  
Suite 2800  
Atlanta, GA 30309

Meridee Moore  
Farallon Capital Management, LLC  
One Maritime Plaza  
Suite 1325  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Mr. Thomas Moskie  
Bankers Trust Company  
Four Albany Street  
Fourth Floor  
New York, NY 10006

Lawrence Palumbo  
The Chase Manhattan Bank  
270 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Frank J. Perch, Esquire  
Office of the United States Trustee  
601 Walnut Street  
Curtis Center  
Suite 950 West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Hamid R. Rafatjoo, Esquire  
Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young & Jones  
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90067-4100

Susan Rice  
Zhagrus Environmental, Inc.  
46 West Broadway  
Suite 130  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Brad Rogers, Esquire  
Office of the General Counsel  
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.  
1200 K. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-4026

Davis S. Rosenbloom, Esquire  
LMcDermott, Will & Emery  
227 West Monroe Street  
Chicago, IL 60606-5096

Josiah Rotenberg  
Lazard Freres & Co. LLC  
300 Rockefeller Plaza  
60th  
New York, NY 10020

Lynn M. Ryan, Esq.  
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, NY 10004-1490

David B. Seigel  
W.R. Grace & Co.  
7500 Grace Drive  
Columbia, MD 21044

Ming Shiang, VP  
The Depository Trust Company  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10042

Daniel H. Slate, Esq.  
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
350 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90071-3442

Thomas M. Sobol, Esquire  
Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein,  
LLP  
214 Union Wharf  
Boston, MA 02109-1216

Daniel A. Speights, Esq.  
Speights & Runyan  
200 Jackson Avenue, East  
Post Office Box 685  
Hampton, SC 29924

James H.M. Sprayregen, Esquire  
Kirkland & Ellis  
200 East Randolph Drive  
Chicago, IL 60601

James A. Sylvester, Esquire  
Intercat, Inc.  
104 Union Avenue  
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Rick Thomas  
Dupont Dow Elastomers  
21088 Network Place  
Chicago, IL 60673-1210

Peter Van N. Lockwood, Esquire+B70  
Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered  
One Thomas Circle NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dorine Vork, Esq.  
Stibbe, P.C.  
350 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Jim Wagner  
Stone Packaging System  
21514 Network Place  
Chicago, IL 60673-1215

Ted Weschler  
Peninsula Capital Advisors, LLC  
404B East Main Street  
Second Floor  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

R. Scott Williams  
PMG Capital Corp.  
Four Falls Corporate Center  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2961

W.J. Winterstein, Jr., Esquire  
Eleven Penn Center  
29th Floor  
1835 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Jonathan W. Young  
Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon  
225 West Wacker Drive  
Suite 300  
Chicago, IL 60606-1229

Pamela Zilly  
The Blackstone Group  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154

Securities & Exchange Commission  
15th & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20020

Donna J. Petrone, Esquire  
ExxonMobil Chemical Company  
Law Department/Bankruptcy  
13501 Katy Freeway  
Room W1-562  
Houston, TX 77079-1398